

Review of the records of a George Saule  
of Braceby, Lincolnshire

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# George Saule of Braceby

The baptism record of a George Saule of Braceby, Lincolnshire, on 13 May 1599, son of John Saule, came to the attention of the Soule Kindred. Due to the birth year of 1599—which is a very solid estimate for when the *Mayflower* passenger George Soule would have been born—it was proposed that I should research this family further, as I have done with numerous other George Soule records found throughout England, to see if he could be the *Mayflower* passenger, or eliminated as a potential candidate.

The first step was to extract the Saule records from the parish registers of Braceby to get an overview of the family living there.

JOHN SAULE, born say about 1567, first appears as a churchwarden at Braceby, Lincolnshire, in 1589. No marriage record is seen, but his first child of record, Katherine, was born in 1591. The baptism records of his children at Braceby, Lincolnshire, are found as follows:<sup>[1]</sup>

1. Katherine, bp. 11 September 1591
2. John, bp. 11 January 1593/4
3. Anne, bp. 24 October 1596
4. George, bp. 13 May 1599. The candidate under investigation.
5. Thomas, 6 January 1601/2
6. William, 23 January 1604/5
7. Robert, 15 September 1607

John Saule assisted with the estate inventory of his brother Francis Saule, husbandman, on 7 April 1592, and the estate inventory of his brother William Saule on 11 September 1599.<sup>[2]</sup> About 1600, John Sawle was taxed 10s 8d on £4 of goods.<sup>[3]</sup>

John Saule's wife may have died about 1609, although no burial record is found. A John Saule married Elizabeth Easton there on 13 February 1609/10. This could be John remarrying, or it could be his nephew of the same name—the records are unclear. John and Elizabeth (Easton) Saule had four children baptized there: Elizabeth (20 January 1615/16), Joney (3 March 1617/18—perhaps the “Joan” who was buried 4 July 1618), Ellen (20 August 1619, buried the next day), John (buried 20 November 1620), and Humphrey (22 June 1623).

With this information, it is possible to trace back another generation to ROBERT and ALICE (LEDUM?) SAULE. Robert Sale of Braceby was taxed 6s on £6 of

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<sup>1</sup> Lincolnshire Records Office, Parish registers of Braceby, Lincolnshire.

<sup>2</sup> Lincolnshire Records Office, Inventory of Francis Saule of Braceby, husbandman, dated 7 April 1592; Inventory of William Saull of Braceby, 11 September 1599.

<sup>3</sup> Public Records Office, Tax Subsidies, E179/137/377.

goods in 1572.<sup>[4]</sup> Robert Saule made out a will dated 20 April 1581.<sup>[5]</sup> He died 30 July 1581, and the will was proved 16 September 1581. In his will he mentions his wife Alice, and his 'brother' John Ledum. He mentions his son and heir Edward (and Jane and John Saule, his grandkids by Edward), and his other children William, Francis, Edward, John, Henry, George, Thomas, Katherine, Marcy, Grace, and Agnes. Eldest son Edward received the farm and two messuages in Braceby, as well as a windmill and additional lands. Son William received lease to a farm "now in the tenure of William Mullanes" (no reason to believe this is any relation to the *Mayflower* passenger of the same name who hailed from some good distance away at Dorking, Surrey.) As for son John Saule, he "is to have another farm or messuage [in Braceby] now in the tenure of Richard Pell after the decease of his mother for 21 years." Widow Alice was the executrix, with witnesses Edward Bordman, John Wrighte, and Morgan Uprichard.

Robert Saule's estate inventory was taken 14 August 1581 by Edward Saule of Skreckington, John Wright of Haisbey, Richard Pell of Braceby, and John Whetstone and Richard Blacke of Roppesley. His estate totaled just over £245, and his inventory mentions his hall, parlour, cheese chamber, milk-house, kitchen, and buttery.

The inquisition post mortem for Robert Saule is dated 6 October 1581, and indicates he had 5 messuages, 2 cottages, 200 acres of land, meadow and pasture and one dovecot in Braceby, along with a windmill. He also had 14 acres of land in the fields of Braceby formerly owned by George Barwell, and 10 acres of land formerly belonging to Richard Williams.<sup>[6]</sup>

No record of George Saule later in Braceby records was uncovered. As such, this individual could not be conclusively ruled out as a possible candidate for the *Mayflower* passenger George Soule. However, the name "Saule" appears in the records most commonly as Saule and Sall, and on rare occasions Sawle and Sale. In no instance was the name ever seen written as Soul, Soule, Sowle, or Sole. This could suggest this is a different surname than that of the *Mayflower* passenger. Additionally, no tangible connection could be made between this Saule family and anyone on the *Mayflower*, or any geographic location related to the *Mayflower*, with one possible exception. There is a record of Robert Saule, late of Rippinghale, who had an 8-year old son John Saule, mentioned in a record dated 1620. This is probably a nephew or cousin to the Saules referenced in this research, and this Robert Saule owned 1 messuage, 1 cottage, and 6 acres of land in Spalding, Lincolnshire<sup>[7]</sup>, which is a parish that appears to have had ties to the Billington family and to the wife of Edward Winslow. That is about the closest this family could be tied to anything remotely associated with the Pilgrims.

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<sup>4</sup> Public Records Office, Tax Subsidies, E179/138/548.

<sup>5</sup> Lincolnshire Records Office, Will of Robert Saule of Bracebe, Lincolnshire Record Office, 20 April 1581.

<sup>6</sup> Public Records Office, Inquisition Post Mortem, C142/276/469. This document is the one that provides the death date of Robert as 30 July 1581.

<sup>7</sup> Public Records Office, Inquisition Post Mortem on Robert Saule late of Rippinghale, yeoman, WARD 7/57/180.